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ESTIMATED PRODUCTION AND PROJUCTION CAPACITY

SOVIET BLOC AND WESTERN EUROPE

Annek A. ELECTRIC POWER

I. Production

Without exception in either the Soviet Bloc or the Western European nations, the postwar electric production trend has been continously upward and it is expected that this trend will continue. The rate of increase will probably be less than that between the close of World War II and 1950, when production from new installations was augmented by that due to the restoration of war-damaged facilities.

Electric production in the Soviet Bloc is dominated by USSA, which produces about two-thirds of the total and together with Soviet Zone Germany, Poland, and Czechoslovakia accounts for over 90 percent of the production in the Soviet Bloc. In the Western European nations, Western Germany, France, and Italy, in that order, are the largest producers and together account for slightly over one-half of the total.

It is important to note that total production in the Western European nations is greater than that in the Soviet Bloc. Occupation of Western Europe would, therefore, more than double present Soviet-controlled production.

A marked contrast between the two groups of nations should be noted. The Soviet Bloc is much more dependent on electric generation by fuels than is the Western European group, the former's production being 87 percent fuel-generated whereas the latter's is 50 percent. This pattern will not be radically changed within the next five years, although the tendency will be toward an increase in hydro production in both groups.

Production estimates for the Soviet Bloc are based on official and semi-official announcements stated in percentages of Plans or as indices of previously known annual production. Projections for future years are weighted by expected increases in capacity of generating facilities. It is considered that these estimates are conservative and are reliable within a range of minus 2 percent and plus 10 percent.

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Estimates for the Western European nations, with only minor exceptions, are based on official reports to the UN and OFEC.

Projections for future years take into consideration expected added capacity. It is considered that these figures are reliable within a range of 5-8 percent plus or minus.

II. Production Capacity

It is extremely difficult to establish reliable figures for production capacity in the Soviet Bloc. The estimates shown on the table are based on knowledge of approximate prewar capacities, tempered by deductions for war damage and evacuations, and additions for new installations and restorations.

The margin of error in these figures may be as high as 15-20 percent plus or minus. This degree of reliability is different from that shown for production. This apparent discrepancy is explained by the fact that increased production of electric energy can be accomplished by varying the hours of use of the generating capacity.

For the Western European countries production capacity figures are largely based on OFEC reports. The estimates projected therefrom are believed to be reliable within a range of about 8 percent plus or minus.

III. Estimated Annual Production Rates, Mid-1953, Mid-1954

On the assumption that existing conditions, which include varying degrees of military preparedness, continue and that there are no significant conversions in industrial production, there are no seriously limiting factors which will prevent attainment of the estimated production figures shown in the table for mid-1953 and mid-1954.

Earring a radical breakdown in coal production and its transportation, fuel supplies will be sufficient. As to other raw materials, new equipment, and spare parts, present sources should provide enough to meet the needs. It is recognized that sufficient new equipment may not be available to provide the desired degree of reserve or standby capacity but the estimated increases in new capacity are modest and should be realized.

Consideration has been given to savings which might be accomplished by the rationing of electric energy. Experience in many countries in World War II demonstrated the great difficulty encountered in effecting rationing programs. This was particularly true in Germany and Japan, even then their needs to conserve energy were extreme. On an almost world-wide basis, it can be said that industry will consume a minimum of 60 percent of all electric energy produced, and that the socalled essential industries are by far the largest electric users. It is recognized, however, that certain non-essential industries and many civilian users can be sharply reduced without serious damage to the whole economy. The imposition of a 10 percent reduction in power production would have a substantial effect on the European standard of living but would not seriously affect essential war industries production. New construction would probably be postponed and the expansion of war industries would be impossible. In spite of this, the essential structure of the European economy would not have to be materially altered.

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